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PATENT

Customer Number: 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 4853.007200000

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Norimasa OKUDA et al.) Group Art Unit: 1623
)
Application No.: 09/870,483) Examiner: Taylor V. OH
)
Filed: June 1, 2001)
)
For: A METHOD FOR PRODUCING)
α-HYDROXYCARBOXYLIC ACID)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. The fee of \$180.00 is enclosed, as specified by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant

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reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 27, 2001

By: *Robert W. Mann*
Robert W. Mann
Reg. No. 48,555

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